

INDOT and DOC lead cleanup, traffic coordination for tournament travelers

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"The international spotlight is shining on Indianapolis for the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament. INDOT and DOC have been working together to ensure that visitors have smooth travels into the city and leave with a good impression of the Hoosier state."

Tom Sharp

INDOT Commissioner

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maintaining the best roads and infrastructure possible. And our offenders are excited to contribute by proving a valuable service to the community."

J. David Donahue,

DOC Commissioner

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In preparation for the visitors traveling to Indianapolis this weekend for the NCAA Men's Final Four tournament, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) are completing an early cleaning of area interstates, and putting plans into place to direct traffic toward tournament attractions downtown.

"The international spotlight is shining on Indianapolis for the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament," said INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp. "INDOT and DOC have been working together to ensure that visitors have smooth travels into the city and leave with a good impression of the Hoosier state."

Before the Big 10 tournaments this March, INDOT crews and DOC inmates worked together to pick up litter and debris along state roads in Indianapolis. INDOT and state contractors also swept interstates, particularly the roads that connect Indianapolis International Airport to downtown. After last week's

snow storm, INDOT and DOC began another interstate clean-up in preparation for the NCAA tournament.

"Our 1,177 offenders have spent more than 25,820 hours and collected a total of 10,173 heavy duty bags of trash," said Commissioner J. David Donahue, Indiana Department of Correction. "This DOC initiative was created to promote Governor Mitch Daniels' commitment to building and maintaining the best roads and infrastructure possible. And our offenders are excited to contribute by proving a valuable service to the community."

During the tournament, employees with the INDOT Traffic Management Center will be working closely with Indiana State Police Post 52 at their joint facility on East 21st Street. The agencies will monitor local traffic conditions and direct visitors toward venues and hotels using electronic message boards. Hoosier Helpers, INDOT's highway safety patrol, will be dispatched to assist stranded motorists and keep traffic moving. The two agencies will also be working together to quickly tag and remove abandoned vehicles on the interstate.

Because the volume of traffic in the downtown area is expected to be higher than normal this weekend, INDOT encourages motorists passing through Indianapolis to use I-465 to avoid possible congestion.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.